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THE CHRISTIAN BERKEY FAMILY

of Somerset Co., Pa., Clark, Washington & Jackson Counties, Indiana

L. M. Berkey

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Re-copied 1969-70

Salem, Indiana,
September, 1953

To Members of the CHRISTIAN BERKEY & FANNY BRENISER BERKEY Family and Others Interested:

My husband, James G. Berkey, has recently purchased the home where his father's family lived for 80 years. In his own room, in a dusty box of his school notebooks and souvenirs, we found a bundle of old letters, carefully tied up in a piece of brown paper. On it, in the handwriting of his father, Jonas W. Berkey, were the words, "Letters of Jonas B. Berkey. May be of some importance as evidence some day." Jonas B. Berkey was the father of Jonas W. and was the founder of Berkey Bros. Store, operated in Salem nearly a century. He was also a pillar in the Christian Church of his day - a kind, liberal and much loved man.

This manuscript begins with the history of the family which Jonas B. Berkey wrote in 1873. Some of you have it in corrected form; this time it has been copied directly from the thick, cardboard covered notebook in which he himself wrote it, preserving his original quaint spelling and lack of punctuation.

Following the history are the letters from lawyers at Somerset, Pa., about the Breniser (or Bromiser) estate. Then come the letters of Alfred Berkey of St. Louis, who was trying to prepare a Berkey genealogy.

Last, beginning on page 8, are letters from members of the families of each of the children of Christian Berkey (who had families) in the order of their birth.

These were the days of Horace Greeley (see p/~~19~~ 20). He was the one who said, "Young man, go West," and the Berkeys certainly did!

Lennie Martin Berkey
(Mrs. James G.)

SEE ADDITION, pages 24, 25, ~~26~~ 27-33 - Older letters from Jacob, Michael & John

FAMILY NAMES, in this manuscript

Baer
Belsor
Blackwood
Bonner
Breniser
Brodbecker
Bruce
Buchanan
Burge
Burton

Clark
Cochran
Cook

Dickerson
Duckworth
Dunlavy

Emerson

Fike
Frank
Flack
Flemming

Gabbert
Gange
Garring
Gordon
Grable
Graham

Hardenbergh
Harrell
Heartley
Henderlider
Herrington
Hofford
Holbrook
Holmes
Horton
Hunter
Hutcherson

Isenlinger

Jones
Judy

Kelly
King
Koontz

Leonard
Lichty
Linton
Long
Luce

Martin
Mathers
Miller
Moore
Morris
"
Morris
Neal

Parr

Redfield
Rhorer
Ribble
Riley
Robertson

Saunders
Schell
Scott
Sheets
Shepard
Sinex
Speaks
Spurrier
Stutzman
Sweany

Taylor
Thatcher
Tiller
Tompkins

Wells
Whitten
Wright

ALLUSIONS TO THE CHURCH

(With the spread of Disciple families to the West, the Christian Church went along. The Christian Berkey family was no exception, as these allusions show in the family letters. They helped to plant new congregations and strengthen the young churches already established.)

P.1 - Barbara Statsman buried at Driftwood Meeting House Cemetery, Jackson Co., Ind.

P.2 - Levi Wright, a Gospel preacher, married Nancy Berkey. They went to Iowa and Missouri. Sons Samuel & Henry also preached
Michael's first wife, Elisa, buried at Driftwood.
Fanny Armitage Berkey buried at Driftwood, "Mother being a member of the Christian Church2, says Jesse B

P.3 Jesse B. Berkey buried 3 babies at Driftwood. His daughter Rawlins's funeral at Salem Church, by Bro. S. P. Moore. Buried at Salem.
Sister Fanny Judy-Whitten died a member Church of Christ.
Sister Catherine Holmes buried at Driftwood.

P.4 Bro. William Berkey buried at Driftwood. Sister Elizabeth Kibble-Thorer buried at Salem. Discourse by Bro. Miller.

P.5. Lawyer Henry Schell of Somerset, Pa. writes that Bro. J. L. Taylor, a Disciple minister, is his brother-in-law. They are building a meeting house.

P.8 J. B. Berkey tells of immersion of self and wife, Oct. 1835 at home of his brother Jacob Berkey and wife, by Elder John Wright.
Letter from Elder Jacob Wright remembers love of Jacob Berkey.

P.10 Barbara Berkey Statsman's daughter, Kate Hollis wrote from Oregon that her husband was a Christian Church preacher. She recalled "Uncle Lem Martin" predicting the end of the world at Driftwood, long yrs. ago.

P.11 John Statsman signs, "Your Bro. in the Lord". Top p.12 says he is to preach a discourse at Cunningham, Ky.

P.13 Henry Wright from Stillerville, Iowa, says cause of Christ is prospering. Had 60 additions & are building a "tolerably good church."

P.15 Henry Berkey's son, Jno. H., of Arkansas City, Kans., says he sent for the Christian Record for "Mother."

P.16 Jacob Leonard, Charles City, Iowa, writes about growing town and church. Asks about Jacob Wright.

P.21 Ellen Colbrook, dau. of Michael Berkey, writes from Mountain Valley, Iowa. They do not get Record but get Standard and Evangelist. No church yet with regular preaching but hopes to have one by next year, etc.

P.28 Jacob Berkey tells of fine meeting at Somerset, Pa. Wishes Jacob Wright could teach the "Sentirizens" .

P.29 John Berkey tells about Mr. Lane at Somerset - "preacher quite equal to Jacob Wright, understanding German and also French, being a native of France."

P.31 Henry Berkey at Monroe, Wis., says they have a church of the nite kind.

p.32-33 Michael Berkey, Somerset, Pa., writes of his faith.

pp.34-37 Jesse B. Berkey's obituary, etc., show his devotion to the Church.

HISTORY OF THE BERKEY FAMILY

(A bundle of old letters, mostly from the early 70's, shows why Jonas B. Berkey was perhaps moved to write this history. He had been engaged in settling estates, those of his brothers, Jacob and John, and had written to all the heirs to distribute the money. He had also been asked to inform the administrators of his mother's uncle's estate at Somerset, Pa., as to how many of his brothers and sisters were living, and how many heirs those deceased had left. These letters also throw light on the identity of many "sons and daughters" whom he does not name. This is copied from notebook in his own handwriting.)

Salem Ind May 22nd 1873

As it might Be Interesting to the Relatives of the Berkey Family I thought I would give a Short account of our Relations

Jonas B. Berkey

Our ancesters ware From Jermany we are Entirely of the Jerman decent one of my grand parents was Born in Jermany Emegrated to the united States before this govement was Formed

My Fathers name was Christian Berkey he maried my Mother hir maden name was Fanny Breniser unto them ware Born Thirteen Children The following is there names

1. Jacob Berkey

was born January 19th 1792

About The year A.D.1815 he maried Anna Sheets Lived with hir Some Six or eight years She died was Buried about ten miles South of Salem on the 27th day of April 1830. he was maied to Jane B. Graham. About the year 1846 he moved to Berlin, Pennsylvania where they lived until his wife died which was May the 4th 1863, Being fifty one years 4 months & Six dayes

On the 30eth day of July 1870, Jacob Berkey died at my house never having any heirs, he being in his Seventy ninth year

2. Barbary Berkey

Was Born July 10th 1793

Maried Abraham Stutsman

They had Several Children none living to be maied except Two which are yet living John B. Stutsman Maried Ellen Herrell (Eleanor Graham Harrell-L.R.B.) unto them ware Born Several Children.

Ann Stutsman Maried James Speaks She having Several Children of which three daughters are yet living. Barbary the mother of the above died near Salem October 15th 1822 aged 29 years 3 months & 5 day was Bured in the cimetry in Jackson County at the driftwood meting house.

3. Christian Berkey

Was Born october 23rd 1794 And died at the age of about one year A.D.1795

4. John Bekey

Was Born August 10th 1796

Never being maied maried died at my house November the 16th 1871. Jacob and John are Buried Side by Side in the Cimetry in Salem

5. Elizabeth Berkey

Was Born April 24th 1798

Maried William Ribble unto them wear Born Sons and Daughters After

living a Widdow Several years She maried Samuel Rhorer are Boath living in Bedford at this time

6. Nancy Berkey

Was Born March 10th 1800
Maried to Levi Wright To them ware Sons and Daughters Born of which most of them are living. Levi & Nancy with their Famely moved to Iowa Where they lived many years Some 8 or 10 years ago Nancy died a few years after hir deth he died also. he Was a preacher of the gospel in the Christian Church. 2 of his Sones ware preachers Samuel the oldest is dead Henry is Still preaching

7. Henry Berkey

Was Born April 9th 1802 Maried Margaret Isminger about the year 1820. maied in Jackson Co. Ind unto them was Born Sons an Daughters of Which Several are dead She was living the last account with her son William in Kancis, Henry Berkey Died Decr 28th 1853 in the State of Wisoonsin

8. Michael Berkey

Was Born February 7th 1804 Studied medecin practiced in Brownston Jackson Co. Maried Eliza Burge moved to Rockford Where she died Was taken to the Driftwood meeting house was buried there. after this went South practiced medecin Short time went either to New york or philadelphia attended the lectures got a Diplomia went to Somerset pensylvania Where he maried Dr Bruces daughter Ellen From there he moved to Mt plesant Iowa where he died July either in 1861 or 1862 having Several children of which only 2 daughters are at this time living Boath maried

9. Samuel L. Berkey

Was Born March 5th 1806
Studied watch making & Dentestry in Salem With Luke Badger Went out to practice Dentestry went to vincennes in a Short time took Sick & died June 30eth 1825 Being 19 years 3 months & 25 dayes old.

10. Jonas Brenaser Berkey

Was Born January 20th 1808
In The Spring of 1808 Father With his Famely Moved from pennsylvania. Landed in Clak county this being the Indiana Territory. Where we lived until the fall of 1814 When we moved to Washington County about 3 miles South of Salem Where Father entered Some land commenced in the Wild Woods to make a Farm Amoung the Bairs Wolves and other Wild anamals, In the fall of 1819 We moved to Jackson County 15 miles North of Salem Where
Father Died September 7th 1839 Being about 70 years old
Mother's Deth In September 22nd 1840 Mother died at Sister Elizabeth Ribble(now Rhorer) in Green County Ind She was Brought to Jackson County Buried by the Side of Father in the Cementry near the Driftwood Christian Meeting house Mother Being a member of the Christian Church

---

Jonas B. Berkey was Born January 20th 1809 Eveline Berkey was Born Jany 28th 1811 Marrage of Jonas B. Berkey
In The year of our Lord 1828 April 19th I was Married to Eveline Henderlider She is a daughter of Frederick & Catherine Henderlider Frederick Henderlider was the Son of Michael Henderlider whose Wife was Eve Miller
My Wife Evelines Mother Was the dughter of George Bishop of

pennsylvania All Being of the Jerman decent
Our first Born

Catherine Fanny Berkey was Born in Jackson Co.Ind February 13th 1829 We moved to Washington County on a farm 3 miles west of Salem, On the 9th day of May 1829 Catherine Fanny Berkey died Never Being a Child in good health Was taken to Jackson County Buried at the Driftwood Meeting house.

Susan Berkey Born June 6th 1830 Same year we Moved Back to Jackson County Farmed one year In the fall of 1831 moved to Vallonia

Frederick Norton Berkey Born September 3rd 1832

Erasmus Lafayett Berkey Born Sept 6th 1834- Died September 17th 1836 Was Buried at the Driftwood Meetinghouse

Elizabeth Berkey Born December 28th 1836

Delilah Berkey Born October 2nd 1839

William Henderlider Berkey Born April 20th 1842 Died May 23rd 1842 Buried by The Side of his Brother & Sister

Jonas Wright Berkey Born July 15th 1843

Moved to Salem Washington County Ind April 7th 1845

Eveline Berkey Born December 2nd 1846 Died December 29th1863 Was Buried in the Cemetry In Salem

Isable Berkey Born December 24th 1849

Marriages

Susan Berkey & William M.Clark Ware Maried Octr 29th 1850

Frederick M.Berkey & Josephine D.Gordon Ware Maried July 18th 1854

Elizabeth Berkey & George L.Neal Were Maried July 6th 1858

Delilah Berkey & John Cochran Weare Maried Octr 7th 1857

Jonas W.Berkey & Amanda Donner Ware Maried Octr 8th 1872

Isable Berkey & Enoch Parr Ware Maried June 25th 1868 Died August 26th at Harristown Washington Co.Ind at 5 o'clock in The morning taken to Christian Church Funeral discours By Dr.S.E.Moore Buried in the Cymetry in Salem Living 2 children Jose & Jonas Enoch

---

11- Fanny Berkey

Daughter of Christian & Fanny Berkey Was Born June 3rd 1810 Maried John J.Judy About the year 1831 He lived a Short Time Died in Jackson County Ind Unto Them was Born one Son John J.Judy. Fanny lived a Widdow a few years Then Maried Dr.A.Whitten lived In Rockford a few years the Moved to Washington Daves Co.Ind lived a few years Where She died having But the one Child died a member of the Church of Christ

12 Catharine Berkey

Daughter of Christian & Fany Berkey ~~Was Born November 7th~~ (born Aug.12,1812,Bible) Maried Peter S.Holmes About the year 1834 Unto them Born Sons & daughters She died in Jackson Co. Was buried at the Driftwood Meeting House

13 William Berkey

youngest son of Christian & Fany Berkey Was Born November 7th 1817 Maried Melinda Blackwood unto them ware Born 2 sons Christian Berkey Born March 22nd 1841 Volinteered In The Service of the united states During The Rebellian was Wounded and Died Near philadelphia pa James Blackwood Berkey was born February 17th 1844 Melissa Berkey Wife of William Died in Vallonia Jackson Co.Ind After Her deth he maried Margaret Hall unto Them was Born 2 sons oldest Cap died in infancy and William Stewart Berkey Is Maried living in Iowa William

Berkey died in Vallonia Jackson Co.Ind March 28th 1854 Was buried at the Driftwood Meting house age 36 years 1 month and 21 dayes Died a member of the Church of Christ

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Deth of Sister Elizabeth Rhorer Died November 18th 1875 in Bedford Lawrence Co.Ind Was Brought to Salem Buried By the Side of Brother John Berkey A discurse preached In Memory of hir on the 19th In Bedford By Br Tiller

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THE BRENIZER ESTATE

(The first letters from Somerset were evidently not saved. The following are copied in order of dates:)

Note on slip of paper - Emanuel Lichty,Myersdale,Sumerset Co.Pa. Executor of the Estate of Jacob Breniser Written to above 11th Novr 1872

Henry F.Schell,Attorney-at-law Somerset,Pa.16 Jany 1873

J.B.Berkey, Dear Sir, Your favor was received and I mislaid it and found it lately and hasten to answer; please excuse delay. The account of the executors of Jacob Brenizer was confirmed at November Court and gives to the four heirs of Veronica Berkey, or their heirs, as follows-

To Jonas Berkey	$573.45
Also on 1 Apl 73	45.35
" " " 74	45.75
& the ¼ of the share of Jacob Berkey(part paid by exs)	$721.14

To yourself like amount. The share of Michael was paid by executors - except the share in the payments & those & the ¼ of the share of Jacob, Michael's heirs get. John Berkey I presume had no heirs; if so, his share will go to the brothers and sisters or rather to yourself, Michael s heirs, your sister or her heirs, say in three parts.

If you desire me to attend to collecting & remitting your share and the other heirs I will do so with pleasure. You had better send a power of attorney signed by yourself and the heirs in Indiana & in case any have not capacity,being minors, then let a guardian be appointed for them & let him act. Any further information desired,I will give freely. Yours truly, Henry F.Schell

---

On stationery of Banking House of Schell & Kimmel,same place & date: J.B.Berkey,

Dear Sir, I am also engaged in the banking business and can if desired remit money by draft on Pittsburgh,Philadelphia,or New York. Respectfully yours,Henry F.Schell

On envelope-Answered Jan.23,1873

Letter from H.L.Baer : Somerset Pa Janry 20 73

Dr Sir, The Prothantary (prothonotary) handed me your letter with

reference to the Brenizer estate. We have had great trouble in finding out the heirs and have not succeeded satisfactorily.

It will be for you to show how you stand related to Jacob Brenizer or to Elizabeth Brenizer his wife. Give the name of your grandfather and grandmother and who they were and how they were related to Jac. Brenizer or his wife. In your letter you call him your uncle. State also who your brothers and sisters are, whether you are a Brother to Dr.Michael Berkey now dead.

Yours truly,
H.L.Baer

From Schell again:

Somerset,Pa. Jany 28,1873

Br.Jonas B.Berkey,

Your favor is received a nd I reply that there is an error in the Auditor's report - The whole amount of your mother's share is $2867.20; this was distributed to 5 heirs where in fact there is 13, ten of whom willbe in. Doctor M.Berkey got his full share and none of his heirs can properly get nothing, so there will be 9 shares now for the fund. There will be over $200 more to be divided that falls due 1 April 1873 & 1st April 1874, arising out of land sold on time - by the will half the estate is to go to Jacob Brenizer's representation and half to his wife's but the real estate was only to be sold after his wife's death which has been done and the share of the heirs on the Brenizer side are four. Your mother, Barbara's heirs, Henry's do & Peter's do. Do you know where any of them live? They don't appear to have an agent here. The heirs of Judy and James B.Berkey are entitled to a share.

I have drawn a petition to the Court to have the report corrected and it will take some time to get it in shape to do justice, get the power of attorney properly drawn and acknowledged, and the guardian should also send a certified cipy of his appointment.

I will be pleased to hear any further suggestion in the matter and try to get the money as soon as I can for the heirs.

Envelope - "sent power of attorney Feb.4"

Your bro.
Henry F.Schell

Again Schell writes. They have found a common bond in the Church.

Somerset,Pa
Feby 7,1873

Bro.Jonas Berkey,

Your letter is at hand. I make 10 heirs to the estate of Mr.Brenizer in the Berkey family because Jacob Berkey in 1855 received $250 out of the estate on his share although by the will it was to remain as a life estate to the widow & only to be distributed at the death of the widow, who died about 2 years ago. Yet it was a vested estate and could be assigned by Jacob Berkey and his receiving it would be a right that the law would sustain provided the executors were willing to pay. Had the executors been unwilling to pay they could not have been compelled to do so. As it is, their act must be respected.

I will write the other heirs. I think I understand the matter now and will ask the Court to have the matter corrected. It will take some time to get it in shape. I will write you as I get along.

Bro.J.Z.Taylor is my brother in law we are married to sisters. I am glad to know he is a worthy and efficient proclaimer of the Gospel his wife is an excellent woman. We are about building a meeting house here. We suffered much from the fire in May last.

---Your brother, Henry F.Schell

Somerset, Pa. May 29, 1873

Bro. Berkey,

I wrote you a short time ago that the Report of the Auditor in the Brenizer estate or rather part of it was put off until September Court for the reason that certain heirs could not be ascertained and Mr. Koontz who represents some other heirs asked the matter to be laid over.

As soon as I can get the money for the parties I act for I will forward. I need the power of attorney from J. B. Stutsman.

Resp, Henry F. Schell

Somerset, Pa. Oct 20 1873

Bro. Berkey,

You have I presume thought that the settling up of the Brenizer estate was a slow business and so it has been. I have just succeeded in getting a proper distribution made but it must be confirmed by Court after which I will urge payment by the executors and as soon as I can get the funds will report and send the same to parties.

Yours truly,
Henry F. Schell

Somerset, Pa. Aug. 31, 1874

Bro. J. B. Berkey,

Your letter is at hand. I had hoped before this to have been able to get the money due you and the other heirs of your mother, but the executors have failed to pay as I hoped they would. I gave notice last week that suit would be entered if not paid up without further delay. If I am obliged to sue it will take several months before I can by law collect. The executors are good for the money but have had to get it in or loan it and times are very close at this time. In a short time our butter (the staple of this county) will go to market and it will be better I hope.

Say to Mrs. B. that I will urge the matter on and let you know as soon as I can get the money. Yours &C

Henry F. Schell

Finally, on blue paper with list of responsible lawyers on back, including Schell, the last Somerset letter in the bundle sounds hopeless. They probably never did get any money.

Somerset, April 6, 1876

Bro. J. B. Berkey

I have your letter and reply that difficulty after difficulty has beset the matter of getting the money. There were two executors, one it appeared by the testimony was to have charge of the estate for Brenizer's half reserved for his side, the the other half that was to go to his wife's relatives was to be in charge of the other executor. Unfortunately for us our executor became embarrassed, was sold out by the sheriff. There were liens on his real estate but I had a certificate of bailance filed against him in time to secure part. The matter is yet in the hands of an auditor to secure a new distribution, the old being of no use. Of course the amountonly that is secured by the lien is all the heirs can get. I do hope it will come to an end soon but it is hard to tell when, as exception may be filed. Did Sister Rhorer have any children? If not her husband if living will get her share.

Your & C

Henry F. Schell

LETTERS OF ALFRED BERKEY, ST.LOUIS, COMPILING A BERKEY GENEALOGY

St.Louis, 22 May 1874

Mr.Jonas B.Berkey,
Salem,Ind.

Dr Sir. Yours of the 27th inst is at hand and noted. I am very much obliged for the valuable information it contains and am confident it will assist me to get much more.

My grandfather was your uncle Daniel who settled in Ills. about 10 miles east of this city in Collinsville. I have an uncle and aunt now living there. My father is near Kansas City and the remainder in Minn.

I have not learned anything yet of yr.uncle John who settled in or near Zanesville save one son Samuel who I am trying to locate.

Can you give me the names and address of any of your brothers or sisters children that I may write them. Did your father formerly live in Somerset Co.,Pa.? Will you please send me a list of your children with date of birth,&c Yours, A.Berkey

(On the envelope J.B.B. wrote, "David Berkey, son of Uncle John, died at Monticello, Ind.")

St. Louis, 14 July 1874

Mr.J.B.Berkey, Salem,Ind.
Dr Sir,

I have the pleasure to note the receipt of yours of the 15 June. I find your Uncle John settled in Somerset,Ohio near Zanesville and died Apr.1,1823 leaving a family of seven children. Another family of the same name coming from Mesne Passal settled near Reading,Pa. about 1700. From that come the Phila.family now residing there.

Your grandfather appears to have been named Daniel and was brought to Somerset,Pa. when a few weeks old. The family probably after his death scattered west, your father to Salem, John and possibly Jacob also to Somerset,Ohio, Daniel my grdfather to St.Clair Co.,Ill. on the border of Madison Co. A sister Barbara,crippled when a young girl by being thrown from a horse, remained in Somerset and died unmarried. Another, Magdalina,married a Mr.Hunter of Somerset Co. and remained there also. One of her children was adopted by her Uncle John and taken to Ohio. Catherine married -Long and lived in Somerset. If you know of a family Bible containing anything relating to the family I will be obliged if you will procure me a copy of the entries,etc.

Very truly,Alfred Berkey

Saint Louis, 20 July 1874

Mr.Jonas B.Berkey,Salem,Ind.
Dr Sir,

When you next write will you tell me who can give me some information regarding the dates of birth,marriages of the wives of your brother Jacob?

I have learned of a Mr."acob Berkey who resided in Berlin,Ia. some years since, at the same time your brother Michael was there. Was it your bro Jacob? And also of a Mr.Jacob Berkey who died in Monroe, Wis. about two years ago. Do you know of him?

I learn from Pa. that your Grand and my great,grandfather was named Christopher. He had one brother only,named John. The impression here is that his(Christopher's) name was Daniel,as I have before written you.

Can you give me the present address of Mr.J.F.Stutsman? He appears to have left Brookfield,Mo. as my letter to him has been retd. uncalled for. Yours,A.Berkey 403 N.3d St.

St.Louis Sept 21,1874

Mr.Jonas B.Berkey,
Salem,Ind.

Dr Sir,

You have given me so much information I dislike to ask you to do more,but having written twice to Mrs.Horner and receiving no reply I am compelled to ask you that sometime when you may be at her house to get the record of her family, and such information of your father's and grandfather's families as she can give in addition to what you have given me.

The record of the family is progressing satisfactorily,though slowly and the number already found is quite large.

Truly yrs &c
A.Berkey

We can but wonder if he ever published any sort of Berkey History, and if so, whether any copies still remain.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS OF THE DIFFERENT FAMILY LINES - Also letters with reference to such members.

(These old letters,yellow with age,mis-spelled and often nearly illegible, are in small,narrow envelopes,some only two inches wide. The stamps have almost all been cut off by some earlier stamp collector. The letters contain much history of the times, as well as family history - growth of the west, politics, church, business, banking,and much besides.)

Beginning with the first child of Christian Berkey:

I. Jacob Berkey

In the old notebook with the family history, Jonas B.Berkey wrote: "Immersion of Jonas B.Berkey & Evaline. We both confessed the Saviour at Brother Jacob Berkeys house in Jackson County Ind Was Buried with the Lord in Baptism by Elder John Wright October 1833"

Here is the first part of a letter to Jonas B.Berkey from the preacher, Jacob Wright ;

Covington,Ind.Feb.22,1872

Dear Bro.Jonas,

Your very kind and welcome letter of the 10th inst came to hand this morning and I can assure you I was truly glad to be permitted to read a few lines from an old friend and brother, with whom I could call to memory the recollection of so many pleasant and joyful hours; but it brings a thought of sadness at the mention of the names of those we loved. I could but think back to the time when we lived at Jacob's as one family, and the many pleasant times we spent together, but alas they are gone never to return .

I always liked John very much, he was very gentlemanly in his behavior, but he had his own peculiar notions on the subject of religion and of course I could not have the same social enjoyment with him that I could with Jacob ---------- etc.

Your Bro.in Christ,
Jacob Wright.

Here are two letters from John Lichty who had lived in Somerset, Pa.,when Jacob was there. They also give more light on the previous generation;

Waterloo, Blackhawk Co, Ioa
November 5th 1870

Dear Cousin(J.B. Berkey),

I shall take my pen in hand to perform a duty which Seemes rather reluctant to do so, however I feele Justifyable in doing so. I had a letter from my brotherinlaw a few days ago Stating that your brother Jacob is dead, it always makes me feel Sorrowfull when I here of a death of a relation & particular on my mothers Side. I have an aunt yet living in Lee Co, Illinois I was to see her last winter. She is a Sister to my mother & a daughter of Fanny Hunter(formerly F Berkey) I also found a cousin namely Samuel Herrington he lives in Carroll Co Ill, the aunt I refered to is married to D.Lichty there ar Some Berkeys yet in Somerset Co Pa that claims a relationship The object of my writing is to State that Jacob had been with us a greate deal several years ago when I lived in Pa, he was about four month with us regular all the time & a great deal besides afterwards. I think it will be nothing more than fair & honest that I should have a little pay my wife was very Sickly all the time he was there and my meenes very limited had to buy everything for the family and was sickly myself he was with us when my wife died I have lost nearly all I had through Sickness I have three motherless children to support, two I have here with me one yet back in Pa my health is poor but some better than it had been in Pa people think I have consumption Now I hope Some one will manifest an interest in this affair, the statement I gave you is utterly if I would make regular charges, I thinke sixty dollars would not be any to much however I shall be satisfied with what you give me, and if you do give me any thing -give it chearefully, I would certainly not have any thing if it was not honestly comming to me. ar you willing to Send me $25.00 I owe yet $28.00 Doctor bill & last fall my little girl had tyfoid feever. I will now leve the matter with you and hope to here from you Soon & do not think hard for me asking pay for what Jacob had been with us if head only come on a visit and staid Several weeks I would not ask anything but he had his home with us, had all his things there had Several large No one boxes besides a whole lot of other things let me here from you soon

J.H.Lichty

John Lichty's 2nd letter:

Waterloo, January 10th 1871

Dear friend,

I received your kind and Wellcome letter of the 3rd Jan, and feel indeed verry thankfull for what you have Sent me($10.00)and hope you will be rewarded for it if not in this world, in the world to come, I am sorry that your brother John's health poorly I think it would do him good to come beyond the old Missisippi and breath the pure air of the Ceded Vally the garden Spot of Pleasant Iowa. I have told you of my poor health, but I am shure had I remained ib Pa I would not be living any more I am Sickly yet, but my weak lungs have been benefitsted very much when I come to this place first nobody thought that I could live long at a more convenient Season I will write you abig letter of Waterloo an its rappid groth, business &c it is supposed Waterloo will make one of the chief commertial cities in Iowa, nex week we will have our report published & the rise and progress of the city of Waterloo I will send you a paper which will be of much interest to you We have two rail roads & expect two more before long If you see fit you may sent the Pike note & I will do all for you I can as Soon as the weather is more favorable I will start out peddling & Shall go down to Vinton Co where he lives I may

probably coax something out of him according to law he has become in solvent. I would always prefer kindness before security Should I succeed in getting something I will send it to you As my health is poorly I confine myself in doors during winter. I enjoy the Summer much more.

Your humble servant
John E.Lichty

(See letter from Jacob Berkey himself , p. 24.)

II. Barbary Berkey

The old letters tell nothing more about Barbary & Abraham Stutsman themselves, but there are some letters from their son, John E.Stutsman who mentions his sister Ann. In 1929 a letter came to the Salem Berkey from Cascade Locks,Oregon,from Mrs.Kate Hollis,daughter of John E. Stutsman. Her husband,a Christian Church preacher,had long since died and she was past 90 and living with her daughters. She told of her girlhood in Jackson County,Ind. andabout how she stood in her seat at the old Driftwood meeting house when "Uncle Len Martin",pioneer preacher,predicted the immediate end of the world. Her father,she said,had the "Berkey twinkle". He taught a country school and was a patient,thoughtful teacher. When his uncle William's little boy complained of the long walk to school, he cut a stick horse for him, so that he could think he was riding.

Here is a poem,copied from the hand-writing of John E.Stutsman,pasted in the Jonas E.Berkey Bible. He had written it for Jonas and Evaline when they lost their little Erasmus Lafayette:

"Composed by John E.Stutsman 20th Sept. 1836
Erasmus Berkey was a lovely child indeed,
For sense and beauty scarcely any did exceed;
He was the babe and his graces were of such,
That on his loveliness his parents doted much.
In the year"thirty-six,seventeenth September
The day in which his parents will long remember,
He closed his eyes in death, ascended up to Heaven,
A crown of glory there, to it the Lord has given."

Here are the Stutsman letters from the West:

Brookfield Mo Jan 6th 1872

Dear Uncle Jonas

According to promise I come here today. I find nothing from you. I wrote to send a check or draft to this place. If you have and it has time to arrive it may be something has gone with it. Write to me at Laclide whether you mailed the draft or whether you got my letter. We are all well. Hopeing to hear from you soon,

I remain yours as ever
John E.Stutsman

Send your draft to this place if you have not yet sent it.

Brookfield Mo Jan 10 1872

Uncle Jonas

Your check is received and cashed and I have the money in my pocket all right ,accept my thanks for your trouble.

We are in good health. Mr.Simpson has gone to Indiana to stay some weeks;perhaps he will be to see you before he returns.

The train will be here directly so I must close for the present.I intend to write you a long letter some of these days.

Give my love all my dear relatives. Good by

John E.Stutsman

John Stutsman letters.cont.

The first two letters were in regard to the money from Jacob & John. Here is one written in pale blue ink,almost faded away:
(From letter found later,Ann Stutsman had married a Gabbert.)
Home March 11 1873

Dear Uncle

A man by the name of Henry F.Cobell of Somerset,Pa wrote to sister Ann wishing to know if he could not attend to her interest in an estate coming to the heirs of Jacob Brenizer,decd. , that there would be some $150 coming to her. I drop you this to know if you know anything in reference to it and to inform me how I may proceed to share in the estate of our great uncle if it is true that we are his heirs.

I have nothing of interest to write more than that we are all well. You know of course that we have had a very severe winter but no one that I know of perished in consequence.

Remember us to our Aunt and Cousins.

Your brother in the Lord
John B.Stutsman

Address - Cunningham,Charlton County, Mo.

Cunningham,Charlton County,Mo
Oct.25,1873

Uncle Jonas

I am somewhat anxious to know whether I may expect anything from Penn this winter. Our tax is high and to meet it we have to sell stock nearly every year. There being no demand now I would have to sell at a sacrifice and as I have plenty of hay to keep them I would like to hold over. Advise me as to whether it would be safe to wait, or sell at low figures for cash to meet the collectors call. The farmers at present are laboring under a heavy pressure,you understand me.

Let me hear from you soon with as much Indiana news as possible and what my cousins(your children)are all about and where are they. It is not probable that I shall ever see you or them again in time. And Aunt Lizzie Shorer is she well and what is her age. We are all well and enjoy life as much as we deserve. Remember us to Aunt Evelina and all

Your brother in the Lord, J.B.Stutsman

P.S. You say there are 10 heirs I cant make but nine if there are ten name them if you please.

Cunningham Mo Aug 1st 1874

Uncle Jonas

~~Mackendeans~~ Dear Sir - It is natural and of course you will not think it strange of me to make some inquiry in reference to the settlement of our old uncle's estate in Penn. Please let me know the prospects at an early day.

We are suffering from a drouth. Our corn is beyond redemption and as the stock raisers have bought up and fed nearly all the old corn in the country so that some of us must suffer in these parts. The most of us have wheat enough to bread us, we have hay enough to keep our stock over winter - 7 head of horses and 16 head of cattle, but no hogs to winter - we are safe so far both man and beast from starvation, even without any corn. The Prairie grass is yet green and enough. Your last to us was the latest news we have had from our folks, we feel very anxious to hear from our dear relatives.

I received a few days ago from a man in St.Louis a blank for me to fill of Mother's children - giving her age and death and the births and deaths of her children, he gives her name and whose daughter and to who she was married all correct. His name is A.Dorsey (400 N.Third Street St.Louis,Mo.) Do you know who he is and why he is seeking for such

information?
Health is very good at this time and was it not for this hot weather and dry dirt the time would pass off pleasantly I am to deliver a discourse at Cunningham on the 3rd Lord's day in this month on the evidences of Christianity. Will I succeed?
Remember to notice us to our friends. John H.Stutsman

III. Christian Berkey - Died in Infancy

IV. John Berkey - Mentioned under Jacob.
See his own letter,p.29 Had artificial leg.

V. Elizabeth Berkey - Ribble - Rhorer

From "Ribble Family Notes" by Mrs.Ida R.Duckworth of Indianapolis:

Children of William & Elizabeth Berkey Ribble:

1.Susannah Ribble	Born March 8,1817
2. Samuel Washington Robble	Born June 29,1819
3.Mary Ann(Polly) Ribble	Born March 10,1821
4.William Berkey Ribble	Born Jan.4,1823
5.Emaline Ribble	Born Oct.27,1824
6.Jerome Bonaparte Ribble	Born Nov.22,1826
7.Frances Ribble	Born Oct.29,1829

Mrs.Duckworth says,"Our Grandfather William died when probably 39 or 40 years of age. Grandmother remarried after the children were grown,and while the family was living near Bloomington, to Mr.Samuel Rhorer. They afterward moved to Bedford where they spent their remaining days."

From Bedford came this letter from the old bundle,evidently from the eldest, Susan R.Isminger,who would have been a woman of 56 in 1873. It is nicely written in a flowing hand,with purple ink. (Envelope says Riley & Isminger, Attorneys at Law, NW Corner Public Square,Bedford.)

Bedford,Ind.
Dec 22nd 1873

Aunt Evaline
I wish you to send the ring if it is done as I want to put it on the Christmas tree. You can send it by the conductor & if no one is at the depot just tell the conductor to leave it with the station agent Mr Glover I will try and be there or have some one when it comes you will have to send it on the 24th if you can, it would do to send it on Christmas if you cant do so sooner, write me the amount of the cost for making it & I will remit to you.
We are tolerably well father and mother are in usual health. Sister Em has been up several days and has been very sick but is up and around now. Brother Sam and his two youngest daughters paid us a visit last week, no news of importance.
My love to all and hope you are well.
Truly yours, Susan R.Isminger.

This, from her brother Sam, was badly scrawled in pencil:

Dec.18th 1876

Uncle Jonas
Accept this my first letter,according to my recollection,

Letter from Sam Ribble cont.

we enjoy good health at present but my horse trod on my foot the 4 of Oct that has crippled me, I can walk a little on the side and heal of it may get well some time but not verry soon I hobble to the barn occasionally,&c Uncle Jonas you are the only uncle I hav and would be glad to hear from you & Aunt and all my Cousins tell me whether you have placed a stone at Mother grave with the funeral expenses if it is paid, and tell me the amont of that estate you are trying to collect Excuse this little sheet please write imediately direct to Southport Marion Co Ind

Your nephew Saml. W.Ribble

VI. Nancy Berkey - Wright

There are 15 letters in the bundle from members of this family, 8 from Henry Wright, 3 from Jonathan Wright and 4 from Felix Dickerson who had married their sister Emeline . Only enough can be given here to show who and where they were, and what they were like. This letter from Henry gives the list of children:

Stilesville Davis Co Iowa
June 16 1871

Dear Uncle, I address you this morning for the first time in life by letter I believe; my own family is well and I hope this may find you and yours enjoying the samen favor I received a note from Br Wm Heartley in which he informed me that on his way from New York he met with you at your place and you gave him information that their was a small estate in your hands that belonged to Mother and said that I had better write you as I was settling father's estate and knew about the amount,etc.....

I suppose father gave you information of mother's death father died Dec 24 1869 they are laying side by side resting from all the labours and two of their children,Samuel and Fanny, is resting in the same grave yard Emeline is resting in a graveyard about 15 miles off the remainder of the children are scatterd around in diferent States

I will give you the names of the heirs of Levi and Nancy Wright as the appear on the family record with their present residence

Elizabeth,Fleming	Davis Co Iowa
Celia, Wright	Putnam Co Indiana
Henry	Davis Co Iowa
Samuel	Deceased
Fanney, Frank	Deceased
Jonathan	Newton Co Mo
Emeline, Dickerson	Deceased
Nancy J.Horton	Jasper Co Mo

Now Uncl I wish to know how I shall proceed to get my pourtion,and if I can draw the other children's shares, how I shall proceed. I am not advised of what is necessary,according to the law of your State. Give all necessary information.

We are living in a beautiful country but we are very dry this sason the corn crops look fine winter wheat is good. The cause of Christ is prospering here we have had about 60 additions to our home congregation in the last 6 months. We are building a tolerably good church house in our little village, but I must close

Yours in hope of a blessed immortality Henry Wright

In another letter Henry said he was guardian for Samuel's children who lived in Nebraska. Fanny's heir lived in Mo. He also told about his preaching.

Jonathan Wright throws still more light on the family:

Newton County Missouri
February 3/72

Mr.J.B.Berkey

My brother Henry Wright writes to me that John & J.B. Berkey Administrators of the estate of Uncle Jacob Berkey have Fifteen dollars belonging to me as one of the Heirs by my mother Nancy Wright also that J.B.Berkey Administrator of the estate of John Berkey has seventy-seven dollars as my portion of the Estate of Uncle John deceased, Will you please confer with me that I may get by the proper order or authority. My sister Nancy J Horton living at Avilla Jasper County Mo might have both of ours sent in one draft and also Nancy E Dunlavy the only Heir of my sister Fanny might all be sent in one draft and save expense,etc

Will you pleas give me information about where my uncles Henry Jones and William lives or whether living and William and Jerome Ribble and also Jacob Wright or David if living I would like to correspond with them.

Hoping an answer from you soon I subscribe myself your friend and relation

Jonathan Wright

In another letter Jonathan says he lives neighbor to one of his father's sisters and her husband, Rebecca and Nathan Buchanan. Of his own family he says he has had 10 children,2 oldest daud.married,buried one boy. Says lead ore has been found on his farm. In a still later letter he wants to move away to escape the lawlessness of the community following the ore excitement. He lives near Joplin. Is also very religious.

This letter is from Felix Dickeson,brother-in-law of Henry & Jonathan Wright:

Belknap PO Davis Co.Iowa
January the 10 1872

Mr Jonas B Berkey Dear Uncle

This is the first time that I have ever written to you although you are an uncle to my second wife whose name was Emeline Wright a daughter of Levi & Nancy Wright. yet we are Strangers to each other Perhaps you learned before this time from others of the relations that Emeline was dead She died seven years ago last fall - Well uncle I wish to write to you concerning a Small Estate that is comeing to my two children that I had by Emeline - a few days ago I received a few lines from Henry Wright with a blank receipt in it for me to Sign as guardian of Emeline's children Elizabeth Flemming who is the oldest of Nancy Wrights daughters also received the Same Kind of a letter with but little explanation asking us to sign a receipt for $77.77 Some months ago we Signed a Similar receipt for $15.00 and have never heard from it Since the last named I think was concerning Jacob Berkey deceased - there was one or two of the heirs I think would not sign the $15.00 Receipt and I and Elizabeth does not feel willing to Sign until we write to you we live near each other Henry lives some 20 miles off Henry Wright is administrator of father Wrights Estate there is some little dissatisfaction on the part of the heirs as it is Some over two years and father Wrights estate not settled yet we can not find out but little about it .....

He goes on to say he saw a lawyer,gives direction for payment,etc. Then he says," Well uncle I have often herd about you from your numerous friends and would like to see you and Sometimes think I must

come and see you I never saw any of the Berkey men folks but uncle Mike the Doctor " was so well pleased with him I have his likeness - will you please send yours for Emeline's children to keep - I have often hear your friends and relations speak of your liberality. See PO address above Yours in love Felix Dickeson "

(In another letter it sounds as if Emeline's children were Elizabeth and Frances. The letters go on,with Felix and Henry rather feuding each other. Henry said Felix was a Baptist preacher,"but they don't hold him very high" and he wondered why Felix had to act as he did. Felix said when the $15.00 finally came, Henry charged each of them $2.00 for collecting it! Felix mentions Levi Dunlavy as one of Elizabeth Flemming's sons. Must have been son-in-law.)

VII. Henry Berkey
(See his letter, p.)

(There are more letters from members of this family than from any other branch - 21 in all. They show that the children were William M. Catharine Leonard, Nancy J.Mathers, Jacob, and a daughter who evidently married a Grable.)
The first letter is from William M.,with whom his mother,Margaret Isminger,was living:

Arkansas City,Cowley Co
Feb.1st 1872

Uncle Jonas Dear Sir

I recvd yours last night and contents noted -We are all well & wish this may find you and family all well I did not know of Uncle John's death until after I had written to Jonas I sent for the Christian Record for Mother and the Jan number gave his obituary notice We are fast passing way I would like to know if he was buried in the honors of Masonry - I have nothing that would interest you as I wrote most all to Jonas some time since I herewith enclose Receipts for the money send by express to Wm.M.Berkey Arkansas City Coley County Kansas deduct the note as you say and send me the ballance feeling grateful for the favor I remain your nephew
William M.Berkey
PS Give my love to all the children hopeing to hear from you soon with

---

In this next letter,William makes the Brenizer estate seem important:

Arkansas City Dec 6 1873

Uncle Jonas Dear Sir

I write this morning to inform you of our very good health hoping this may find you and all well we have had very warm weather until within three or four days Our country is gradually improving we had a fine crop the past season -
I recvd a letter last spring from Schell of Somerset Pa giveing statement of the estate of Jacob Brenizer Schell says he Jacob had four brother and sisters now Mother says there was only three in family John, Jacob and Grandmother now I am told they are all dead now would we not heir our share of John Brenizers Share
I wish you would inform me in regard to the matter As I understand the case you would get one qr of one half of the entire estate

he shows out on hands	22,938.02
payment on land due Apr 1st 1873	1,383.33
" " " " " 1874	1,383.33
	$ 25,704.68

Letter of Wm.H.Berkey, son of Henry, cont.

Now by the will he gave one half to his Bros & Sisters and one half to his wifes Bros & Sisters Now as I understand Grandmothers children or their heirs would be entitled to one half of the entire Estate

Write soon your nephew
W M Berkey

In another letter Wm. said, "Money loans readily at 25 per cent. Mother has better health since we come here than for several years."

From Charles City, Iowa, Catharine Leonard wrote a nice letter in a dainty shaded hand:

Charles City, Feb. 19, 1872

Dear Uncle & Aunt -

Hearing from me will be like hearing from a stranger I presume. But it is very seldom I write to any one of my dearest and most esteemed friends. I hope this letter will be welcome. We are all well and hope this will find you all enjoying the same good blessing of health.

When I look back and think of the many years that have elapsed since I seen my relatives those I used to see most when a child at home with my parents I cannot help feeling sad. From father, mother, brothers and sisters it seems that I have always been separated from, more than any one of the others. But as such was my lot, I presume I ought to be contented.

My children are all near me. W.H. is now a partner in the Intelligence Office where he first learned his trade. Mary is in there with him, setting type. Margret is living but a short distance from me. She has two children(both girls). Will Gange, her husband, is agent for the Howe Sewing Machine Co. He travels a great deal and is away from home very much. I received a letter from Wm. Berkey last fall.....(Etc. about estates)

I don't know as it would be any use for me to ask you to come and see us. It is, and always has been, impossible for me to visit my friends, but it seems that some of them could come and see me if they only would. Good bye and write soon. From your Niece,
Catharine Leonard.

(Her husband, Jacob Leonard, also wrote. Said they had eight children - one boy and seven girls. Spoke of the growing town and church, of an epidemic among horses. Asked about Jacob Wright. The son, W.H., also wrote for his mother 2 or 3 times.

(I contacted a descendant of Catharine Leonard through Elsie Morris Gazzolo of Oak Park, Ill. This woman, Margaret Cuthbertson of Pa., visited a daughter who lived near Elsie. I found this to be a very fine family. Catharine and her daughter, Mrs. Will Gange, both lived to be very old and were strong. When reproved for nailing up a wooden box when past 90, Catharine said, "Why, I could build a ship!" Their family memories showed they had a false idea of the importance of Jonas S. Berkey. They thought he was in the millionaire class! L. Berkey)

Note: Margaret Cuthbertson died in 1969. Had had a stroke and lost her memory.

Nancy Mathers and her husband, John C., write from Tonganonie, Kansas. John's letters are in a small cramped hand and his spelling is terrible, but the letters are affectionate and interesting, and Nancy must have been a happy woman. This first one is from John.

Tonganonie, Kansas
December 18th 1871

Respected uncle

your verry kind and affectionate letter came to hand yesterday. we was glad to hear from you, but sorry to hear of the death of our venerible old uncles, but you now nature must have her coarse you spoke of there leaving some money to be distributed among the relatives, a portion of which we will accept verry thankfully Uncle we would prefer that you make the distribution on receipt of their receits we wil send our receit and that way will dw you will please send us a check on some bank in Leavenworth or Lawrence in the mean time I will write to our brothers and sisters and let them now about it, uncle Jonice your littel nibce wants me to say something about hur children, as she is verry proud of them we have had 9 six of which are living Our eldest James H. is maried and living in StJoseph,Mo. our second an sone lived to become a man in evry sence of the word & then died and we rejoice to now that, that saying which says blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, and that inbraces him, may it bee so with us all, that we may all meet where friends shal part no more, our oldest daughter is also maried and living in the country near by, hur name is Eliza E.Linton, Mary F is still at home and she has been teaching school and clerking in a dry goo store for about 2 years Thomas Emmy & Margaret is at home when they are not at school or somewhere else, I suppose you are aware that nancies health years ago was rather delicate, but since she has become an old lady she is quite stout, she is now in her 50th year& but very littel gray Mine is just the reverse years ago my health was good but it is verry irregular now Though we thank god that it is Just as well with us as what it is, we are living in a thriving littel vilige & trying to accomodate the traveling publick.

Nancy sais tell ant Evaline she wants to now all about hur family& particularly of cousins Susin & Fredrick as she has son recolection of them have you any grand children & how many does brother Mathis visit you oftin, remember us to him, tell him we will rite to him soon O,yes Nancy wants hur uncle Jonases & ant Evelines pictuers to put in hur albrem if you please, & any of the rest of the friends will confer a great favor if they will send theirs, could we have uncle Jacobs & uncle Johns, if so please send them if yoy have uncle Mikes picture please send us one, etc

Your neiphew & niece
John C. & Nancy J.Mathers

(He asks where Cousin Ann Speaks is, and in another letter he asks about J.J.Judy, Uncle William's children & Aunt Elizabeth Rhorer.)

Nancy Mathers herself writes on the back of John's letter, 2 years later ;

December 9,1873

Dear Aunt Evaline,

I take the opportunity of addressing you after so long a time. I suppose you know that Mother is living in southern Kansas with Brother William Berkey. We received a letter from them a short time ago stating that my niece Hattie Garring-Grable a

Letter from Nancy Mathers,cont.

as it use to be- is dead she left an infant of 4 weeks old and a kind husband & friends to mourn their loss. She died last sumer Our Eldest Son James and his wife are with us this winter. they have been living in St.Jo.Mo. but talk of going to Denver City in the spring. The Eldest Daughter Ella Linton is living in Kansas City,Mo. her Husband is express messenger on the mane line from Kansas City to Denver City they have one of the sweetest & smartest little ones in the state her name is Linnie. She is three years old I feel quite old as I am Grandmother and our youngest one Maggie 13 years of age is with them and Thomas the youngest son also. Emma of 16 is going to school Mary is at home and this is the extent of our family. I should like to hearfrom all of my Folks Uncle Otse Homes & the children tell Susan & Fredrick & all the rest to write to their cousin if she does live in Kansas. Aunt I do want you and Uncle to come and see me I do want to see you so bad & if I could I would go to see you. Do write soon love to all as ever yourr Neice
Nancy J Mathers

(Note in old book says Nancy was still living in 1907. Said she was 92 but she would have been 85. After husband's death she had married a Scott & moved to Denver,Col. Son Tom had been ticket agent in Kansas City.

There are 5 long letters from Mary R.Berkey, written in very small writing on long foolscap paper. Mrs.Berkey was the widow of Henry's son,J.W.Berkey. She never once called him Jacob but that must have been his name. He was evidently the Jacob Berkey, deceased, who lived in Wisconsin, as mentioned by Alfred Berkey. The first letter only, giving the sad account of her husband's death, will be copied for the most part, and only a few facts given from the others.:

Monticello, Green Co Wis
Dec.18 1871

Dear Uncle

I for the first time in my life attempt to address a few lines to you with a very sad heart. I suppose that Brother William Berkey has informed you of the death of my dear husband who was taken away from me the 21 of last March. we spent the winter in southern Illinois & Indianna & were sending our oldest sone to Merom Colledg Sullivan Co Indianna we had been to Terre haut & were returning to Merom and he my husband was taken violently sick of Pneumonia and typhoid fever & lay sick 3 weeks he bore his sickness with all patience & resignation that any poor mortal could - he was resigned to his fate and said if it pleased God to take him he was willing to go. but when the dread summons comes there is no evading it we must go. he was attended by the best Medical aid that could be had as far as we could assertain we were among strangers and had to take such as was recommended to us but I dont think it lay in the power of any human being to save him the doctors name was Wdier he said he was raised in Washington Co Ind was acquainted with all the Berkeys there I was left four hundred & fifty miles from home among strangers and in a strangers house with my two children my doctor bill one hundred dollars & board $70 besides funeral expences you may have some little idea of my feelings but

no body can realiz it until it comes home to them there I was bereft of my earthly protector the strongest earthly tie was torn asunder I must go and leave him behind laying in the cold silent grave without one loveing hand to pluck a weed or plant a flower to blow over his grave ....."

She tells of their lonely homecoming and her trials as a widow. Her family consisted of two sons, Joshua,19,well grown but not strong, and John,11,small for his age. Joshua wanted to be a doctor but decided to go to a commercial school She,too,asked several times about the estate. In 1874 she wrote that it was like the old story of the monkey dividing the cheese - the executors would take all the money for their trouble.

(John Mathers said in a letter,"We heard from Mistia Berkey." Maybe this was Mary R. -L.Berkey)

These are two short letters from sisters, grand-daughter of Henry Berkey, Margaret Thatcher & Hattie Garring:

Harlan,Shelby Co Iowa
March the 20, 1871

Mr J B Berkey

Dear uncle it is with pleasure that I improve the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I received the check for $74 that you sent me. please excuse me for not writing sooner my babe has been sick since I recd yours. I have two boys and one girl. This leaves us all well. Hoping it may reach you and find you the same.

Yourse respectfully
Margaret Thatcher

This letter is from Hattie Garring,whose Aunt Nancy said she died the next summer after she wrote this, leaving a month-old baby:

Lawrenceville Ill
Feb.12 1872

Dear Uncle

I presume you think I am in Mo. We went to Mo last fall but did not like the country so we came back to our farm satisfied to live on it a while longer We are well haveing splendid weather I recd a letter from uncle Will Berkey last week stating uncle John death was sorry to hear of it. Uncle Wills folks were all well except Grandma she has the scrofula in her arm I recd that money you sent me last fall, and neglected to answer your letter. Hope you are all well present my complyments to all. I send you a receipt for my part of uncles estate. send by Postoffice order from your Niece

Hattie Garring

VIII Michael Berkey

Dr.Mike seems to have been known to all the family,whether they lived in Jackson Co.,Ind., Somerset,Pa., or Iowa and other points west, for he lived in all three places. This seems to have been the Michael Berkey told about in the Stevens Wash.Co.history. He was teaching at Walnut Ridge in 1829 and accidentally killed a boy when they tried to "shut out" the teacher.

(See 2 letters from Michael in back of manuscript.)

The treasure of this old bundle of letters is one written by Jonas B. Berkey himself to this family. He addressed the envelope to "Mrs. Ellen Berkey or Ellen Holbrook, Council Bluff, Iowa" and it came back unclaimed They were living at Missouri Valley, Iowa, 30 miles from Council Bluff. J.B. Berkey wrote thus to his sister-in-law, Clara Ellen Bruce Berkey, widow of Michael:

Salem Ind Decr 11th 1871

Sister Ellen

I thought I would write you a few lines this evening Being the first time I believe, it is through the blessing of our heavenly Father that we are all enjoying reasonable health I suppose you hav heard of the deth of Brother Jacob Berkey he died a year ago last july and there is a little money coming to your children which I hav ready for them $120 is there portion which they can have by receipting me, Brother John died the 16th of last month after paying all expences there is coming to each of his Brothers and Sisters $622.22 which is reddy for them by receipting me for the same will you have this attended to at your earliest convenience I would have written to you before but did not know where to address you. please let me hear from you soon.

Your affectionate Brother
Jonas B. Berkey

Here is a letter from Marcellus Holbrook, husband of Michael's daughter Ellen, or Ella. he was a banker and Real Estate Agent:

Missouri Valley, Harrison Co
Sept. 10, 1872 Iowa

Jonas B. Berkey, Esq
Salem, Indiana My dear Sir,

Your letter came duly to hand informing us of the death of John and Jacob Berkey We had no knowledge of either

We are all in usual health - Emma Cook lives at Napolia in this County Grandmother Berkey lives here with me We have two children "Anna" and "Bruce" Emma has none We would be glad to see you Cant you come west for a visit it would do you good to see this growing country.

(He sent receipts and asked that the money be placed to his credit with Saunders Hardenbergh & King, New York. Receipts show that J.B.B. did this through his dry goods wholesaler, J.T. Tompkins of Louisville.)

Marcellus Holbrook adds a postscript:

"We would be glad to hear from you at length in regard to yourself and family And also as to the decease of your brothers - Mrs. Holbrook has written to John Berkey once or twice since we came to Harrison County and I think has had letters from him so we are surprised that you did not know our address. Mrs. Holbrook will write to you when we hear again.

Yours M H "

In another letter in 1872 Marcellus Holbrook wrote, in his large, flowing script, about the estate in Penn. He said, "I do not suppose it will amount to much, but may be worth something." He enclosed a letter from W.J. Baer of Somerset, asking about heirs, max and a significant political statement was, "All well & all for Greely."

Then here is a very nice letter from Ella Holbrook herself. One wonders if pupils in those days were taught to use periods,or to begin sentences with capitals, but she did!

N.Valley Iowa Sep.24 1872

Dear Uncle,

I have thought every day since we heard from you that I would write you,but from various causes could not get at it. We were very glad indeed to hear from you once more,but pained to hear of the death of our uncles,although it was hardly unexpected as they were both growing old, and death comes to all sooner or later.

Anna and I often spoke of writing to some of you,and we did write once or twice to Uncle John after leaving Mt.Pleasant - but not within the last two or three years. We have all enjoyed good health and prosperity. Anna was married nearly two years ago and still lives at Magnolia, her health is better than when she was a girl. We moved from Magnolia to this place in May last, and like the change very much. Mother always makes her home with us - and as Anna is boarding she is here a good deal of the time -(the towns are ten miles apart) so that we are never separated long at a time.

Mother requests me to say she often thinks of you,and wants you to write us a good long letter,and tell us all the news,about you and your family,and all the relatives. We would be delighted to see some of you out this way. The facilities for comfortable traveling are so perfect, you and Aunt might come out and make us a visit any time. I have often thought of some of our cousins who are young might come and see us. It would repay any of you to come out and see our magnificent country. We live in the edge of the Grand Missouri bottom,a country that can not be excelled anywhere I think.I like this part of the state much better than the eastern,would not like to live any where else as well as here,I think. Missouri Valley is about 30 miles north of Council Bluffs and is the junction of the Chicago & N Western R.R. with the Sioux City & Pacific,so is quite a lively town,though young yet.

Do you ever hear anything about Cousin Susan Isaminger or George -I have not heard a word from them since my marriage. We would like to hear how they are both faring. They were at Malayra,Mo. the last I heard of them.

Tell us also about Uncle John's and Jacob's last days and hours, and all that you think would interest us no matter how small the circumstance, as everything will be of interest. We do not take the Record so did not see the obituaries. We take the Christian Standard and our own State paper,the Evangelist. We have no church here that keeps up regular preaching, so we are very much at a loss. I hope by another year we will have a church building, and then we may accomplish something for the cause. We have two children,almost old enough now to understand and I do not want to bring them up outside the church. Anna our oldest is five years and a half old and Bruce our boy is over three - both are very robust and healthy -consequently wild and frolicsome as colts. I will have their pictures taken as soon as I can and send them to you. I must close hoping to hear from you soon and that Aunt is improving,etc.

Your affct neice, Ella Holbrook.

IX. Samuel Berkey
died at 19,unmarried, in 1825

X. Jonas Brenizer Berkey

X. Jonas Brenizer Berkey

He names all his own children. The Neals went to Garden City,Kans. and the Cochrans to Colorado, the others remaining in or near Salem Indiana.

XI.Fanny Berkey -Judy-Whitten

Fanny married John J.Judy and her one child,also John J.Judy,was a Civil War soldier. There are some letters from his widow,Nancy Judy, and one from a lawyer who said someone had been tampering with her pension and had reported that John J.Judy died from other causes than those resulting from service in the army. J.B.Berkey was asked for the address of Dr.W.G.Flack who had been his doctor both in service and at the time of his death. Dr.Flack had gone either to Detroit,Kansas or Junction City,Kansas. This inquiry was made Jan.7,1873.
Here is a letter from poor Nancy Judy, left with four children and poorly educated:

Nodora Ind Dec 11 1871

Sir it is Becoming in me to say

Dear Uncle as the Childrens father always taught them to call you Uncle and Aunt and I think that you are kind and act kindly towards My Family to see that there is some thing seoning to them as it will be a greate help to them you of Corse will Chose them a good guardian as you no how is proper better than I do and I feele so happy Just to think they have so kind a friend as you I will Call to see you as soon as I Can I have bought proprty in Nodora and am sending all of my children to Skool every Day is it a very large amount that the Children will get or is that for me to no this leaves me and Family all in good health hoping it will find you and yores the same so I will give you the Childrens ages and then Close by Beging you to wright agane soone to me yore most obedient Friend and well Wisher Nancy Judy

Laura A Judy was born May 21 1859
John W Judy was born Aug 20 1860 is Deade
Fany A Judy was born January 4 1863
Samuel R Judy was born October 4 1865
Charles W Judy was born January 25 1867

On the envelope J.B.B. has written - Laura,13 years,Fanny 8, Samuel 6, Chas 4.

Nancy wrote again to correct a mistake she had made in a date, already corrected above. She wrote again about 2½ years later:

Seymour Ind April 2 1874

Dear Uncle and Family

as I have not herd from you for so long I will wright you a few lines hoping that they will find you all well as this leave us in tolerable goo health I supose that you hav herd that I was Maried again My husbands name is William Swany he is none as a honest good citizen and is well respected by all that none him he has got a good farm three Miles east of Seymour though the Family is so large that he cant dress the girls as they want to dress in fact he thinks Laura must dress her self and she is not able to turn out and do all kinds of hard work She has ben sworning away from home nearly 2 years and she is not able to do it any longer if she had a gud place to stay at that she could not have to wash and flop around she can do that but hard work she can not stand as she has hert her self at hard work all ready She tells me to wright

and ask you if thare Will any chance for her to get any of that Mony that is aconing to her as She nedes it Now if she ever Will She nay Mary at sone tine and get a Man that Would spend it foolishly thoughe We hope she Will not if thare is any chance for her to get any of her part of the Mony let her no it and she Will come to see ypu about it if it is but a few Dollars it Will be a greate help to her if you could let her have goods out of the Store that Will Do She has lost 2 year of scoolong having to Work for her Self anser soone Direct yore leter to Laura as She Will be in town to get the male give my respects to all and all cone to see us as We have got a good comfortable pleasant hone Laura will finish this letter as she says that she Wants to Wright sone to you all she is aliving in town I Will send this leter to Laura to finish and Maile

respectfully yores Mrs Nancy A Sweany

Laura Judy adds her note on the back, asking the same thing. She says she has had the "third day ague" the past winter.
I I think I can see the German influence in Nancy's writing. One envelope she addressed to "Mr Jhonis Burkey". -L.B.)

Another Judy letter in the bundle was a business one from Reson S.Judy of Pleasant Hill, Cass Co., Mo. J.B.B. wrote on the envelope "From Reson S.Juldy". Wonder if they sometimes called it "Juldy".

XII. Catherine Berkey -Holmes

According to Miss Caddie Shepard of Brownstown, Ind., a granddaughter, Catherine Berkey married Peter S.Holmes for his second wife. She had 4 children:

1. Jacob Wright Holmes married Jennie Wright. Their children were William, Frank, Bert, May & Kate.
2. Jonas Berkey Holmes married Elizabeth, daughter of Col. Wells. Had one son, Gail.
3. Nancy Ann Holmes married George Spurrier. Had 2 daughters, Flora(Sinex) and Addith who never married.
4. Fanny Evaline Holmes married -- Shepard and went to Kansas for 7 years. All three children born there - Caddie Shepard, Cora Brodhecker (had 3 sons, Claude, Rolland and Lou Allen Brodhecker and 1 daughter, DeAlba Robertson) and Elmer O. Shepard who married Minnie Burton. Elmer had one child to live and marry - Raymond Shepard who lives in Bedford and has 2 married daughters.

Miss Caddie says her grandmother, Catherine, died when the two girls, Nancy Ann and Fanny, were small, and they lived in the home of their uncle Jonas B. Berkey a short time. One of the letters in the old bundle is from the Clerk of the Jackson Co., Ind. Court in 1873. Along with business about a Hutcherson case, he says,

"Ransom Holmes was not appointed in this county as guardian. I presume he received his appointment in your county and by inquiring of your clerk you can learn the condition of the fund."

"Yours truly, Frank Emerson

With regard to the estates, here are two letters from Jonas Berkey Holmes:

Osage Mission, Kansas
Dec 23 1871

Dear Uncle,

Letter from Jonas Berkey Holmes,cont.:

"Your letter and the package of Mony arrived to day all right My health is not very good We are having unusual cold weather here for this climate. I think of going east soon if I do I will call on you I remain as ever
Your Obedient Servant J.B.Holmes"

Seymour Ind
Sept 25 74

J.B.Berkey Salem Ind
Dear Uncle

I reevd a letter yesterday from Henry F.Cohell Attorney at Law Somerset Pa. saying he was ingaged in suit to force Administrators to settle in case of some of our relatives deceased he says there is something coming to Mothers Heirs but the matter has gone to the Courts Please write me what information you have of the matter if any We are all well Hope this may find you the same -

J.B.Holmes Box 360

There were two letters from Jacob Wright Holmes. The first,on Feb. 16,1873, from State Line City,Ind., said it had been cold, from 15 to 27 below zero. Health was good except for some deaths in the community from spotted fever. He asked about the estate in Pa.
The second letter told what he was doing:

State Line Ind
Dec 24 1873

Deare Uncle

As it has been some time since I herd from you & would like to here from you once a while how the old folks at home are We are as well as yusual Jennie has not very good health times is very close, thoug prices are good for farm product. I am a deling in poultry this winter drese & ship to New York City but are not making much mony. Bro Jonas is in the position Silver Heire seems to be a doing a good business. I have not herd from home for some time.

By the way has the Estate in Pennsylvina been settaled yete. I put my Bulsiness in the hand of H Cohnell but they have not reported any settelment yett Hoping to get a good and long letter from you for a Christmas present

Your Nephew Jake Holmes

Jennie must have lived until 1893, for this note was in the J.B.Berkey family Bible:

Reform Ind
Jan 21, 1893

Mr Burkey
Dear Sir

Our beloved Mother died this morning at ten minutes of two please notify all come if possible

Very Respectly
J.B.Holmes and Family

Last of all, here is a note from Miss Caddie's mother,Fannie Hepner:

Baldwin City Kansas
Jan 8th 1872

Dear Uncle

You requested us to answer on receipt of the money it

Letter from Fannie E.Shepard,cont.

arived here the 6th(saturday all right ($55.55) this leaves us well hope this will find you all well. I will not say wory you with a lengthy letter, but hope I may have the pleasure of hereing from you again My love to all

Your Affectionate Niece
Fannie E.Shepard

XIII. William Berkey

James Blackwood Berkey, son of the first marriage of William Berkey, spent all the later years of his life in Salem,Wash.Co.,Ind. He was married in 1866 to Mary Emma Redfield who died 7 years later. She left a child,Lilly Belle, who married Sam F.Morris. James Blackwood Berkey, who was "Squire Jim" and N.& L. Secretary many years, was married the second time to Flora Etta Morris,who survived him. She had no child but a niece, Alice Morris Martin, with her little son Jimmy, was taken into their home.

The son of William Berkey's second marriage,William Stewart Berkey, is represented in this bundle of letters by two written in 1873 from Iowa, when he was just 21. His mother, Margaret Hall Berkey, was also in Iowa.

Mount Ayr, Iowa
Jan.27th 1873

Dear Uncle
J.B.Berkey, Salem Ind

Brother Jno.B. wrote me that you had three hundred and fifty dollars ($350.00) of my money. As I am of age the 21st of this month I hope you will remit the same to me, as I shall not be able to visit Indiana before next spring.

We are all well. And hoping this will reach you soon, enjoying God's blessings, I am your Nephew

W.S.Berkey

Mount Ayr Ringgold Co Iowa
Aug.12th 1873

Jonas B.Berkey
Salem Ind. Dear Uncle:

What has been done with or about the Brenizer Est of Va. I have not heard a word from the lawyer since last spring some time in April, he said there would be a hearing in court about the middle of May.

What % per annum does money loan for in your place. What probability would there be of getting a $1000 on Two or three years time by giving good security

We are having very hot weather Harvesting is over and Oats & Wheat are extra good. We have had a very fine prospect for corn, but owing to the dry and hot weather will not exceed more than half a crop.

A great deal of sickness throughout the country. We are well. Ma is going to move down here,from Fopeville next week.

Hoping this will find you and the folks enjoying good health I remain as ever your nephew, as soon as convenient write. Give my best wishes to all.

W.S.Berkey

William Berkey Family, cont.

(Note: Mrs. Estelle Berkey Kelly of Salem got in touch with this family through a church paper and heard from them occasionally. Mr. Walter Berkey and wife of Humeston,Iowa, were in Salem in the summer of 1952. They visited the old cemetery at the Driftwood Meetinghouse in Jackson Co. With them was a nephew of Walter Berkey Richard Berkey of Louisville,at that time. A brother of this Richard Berkey, Prof.Keith Berkey of Colgate Univ., visited Salem with his wife about 1967 or 1968. L.Berkey)

Although Jonas B.Berkey moved to Salem in 1845, he seems to have continued in business at Vallonia,Ind.,with his youngest brother, William, in charge. Several receipts in the old billfolds from Berkey Bros. store are signed "J.B.& W.BERKEY" and notes are made out to them. For instance,they handled a medicine called"Liverwort and Tar". This receipt was scribbled on a small piece of paper:

" Vallonia,Jackson County,Ind
- May 27th 1851

"Received of David Waldron two dozen Liverwort and tar at eight dollars per dozen which we agree to pay for when sold, or return when called for.

J.B. & W.BERKEY"

The manufacturers of this medicine,A.F.Scoville & Co. of Cincinnati, had written, and Jonas B.replied in 1854 as follows:

"Vallonia,Ind.Feb.21st 1854

Dear Sir,

I will just inform you that we hav Sold out the Store to Wm Weathers at this place We expect to leave Shortly therefore we hav not asigned the receipt you sent here. I presume Mr.Weathers will be quite responcable if you give him the agency The two boxes are here and he will receipt them you

Yours Respectfully,
J.B.& W.Berkey

From the family history we see that William died at Vallonia on March 28,1854. No doubt his ill health was the reason for selling out.

A letter from John J.Judy was found later in the old billfolds from Berkey Bros.Store. It hardly seems fair to give this picture of the man for he was all "riled up", but this is all we have. The handwriting is good but the spelling only fair. The letter was written to William Clark, son-in-law of Jonas B.Berkey, who was working in the store or collecting:

Cousin Will Clark

Dear Sir

The settlement I had with you,some 12 months ago,is all right, and am well aware that the goods were obtained in my name (or at least my wifes). Now dose or dose it not, look hard for mee to pay the full amt that you have charged against mee when Miss Cordelia White comes to mee and acknowledges that she secured the goods for herself and appropiatedthem to her own benefit -does it look right? I told her I intended to have her arrested, she then came to mee and beged for time, that she would pay it that a certain John Woods owed so mutch and as soon as he paid it she would pay you.

Letter from John J.Judy,cont.

"When asked how mutch she got on my acct she did not know but said she got at least $25.00 worth and had got more than once. The bill that you sent out showed that she had got 20 yds.calico, 10 yds. Bleach.domestic, one Sallsoral 1 head net 1 round comb and trimmings that would amount to more than $25.00. Now she sayes she got as often as three times, for herself now how are we to get at it. I counseeled a Lawer at Brownstown in regard to the matter and he said that you was the man to operate against her. Now she is here,her father is dead the sail was last saturday the personal property did not satisfy the creditors now the land has to go, and the time has come to strike. I propose for you to do it and summons my wife, Miss Jane White and myself and investigate the matter and if I am to pay the debt I'll do it cheerfully. I intend the Salsbos to be paid if I have to pay it myself, but not till their is a move made to justify myself.

Very Respectfully
You Cousin
Jno.J.Judy "

We are left to wonder what happened next, and if Miss Cornelia Jane White was his wife's relative, or just a neighbor. This 1860 letter was of course written not so very long before John J.Judy was drawn into the Civil War.

CONTENTS OF OLD POCKETBOOK - Loaned by Estelle Berkey Kelly

After completing this manuscript, Estelle Kelly, grand-daughter of Jonas B.Berkey's son,Fred N., sent the following valuable papers which I am copying .

1. Letters, all three more than 100 years old, written from Pennsylvania by the brothers of Jonas B.Berkey, Jacob,Michael and John. These letters have no envelopes but have been folded and sealed with a bit of wax. Only John's has a 3-cent stamp. Jacob's is marked"3" in the stamp corner and Michael's is marked "X".

Here is the first and oldest, from Jacob:

Sept.25th 1846
Berlin Pa.

Brother Jonas,

I reed your letter of the 17th inst with this receipt which I inclose again for your signature, it is still a blank. I think that you must have forgotten to sign your name; Compair the receipt with these notes,and if I have made any mistake in making out the receipt you can rectify it and sign the receipt and send it & to me again; or if their is no mistake sign it and send it on to me -I am sory to hear of so many deaths and so much sickness in the country. There is a good deal of sickness both East and west of the mountains, but it still remains healthy here. We have abundant reason to thank our great Creator for his mercie and goodness,that he has inabled us to settle on these mountains, it is yet healthy -When we left Indiana I was dull stupel, and in fact almost dead, when we arrive here I was poorly weakly and almost useless - but I am improveing. I am coming to my natural healthy feeling. Jane is frequently complaining with head ache,but I think it will soon entirely wear of. She likes to live here. I have made a purchase of property in this place. I bought the same property of Mr Hofford that Michael was writeing to me about when we were at your house. Mr Hofford asked 2000$ for it. I got it for 1500$ We are going to move to our own house next week. We want to gather our apples first. We made 10$

Letter of Jacob Berkey, cont.

gallons of apple butter day before yesterday. I intend going to merchantdiseing I shall need all the funds that I can get. Mr True's notes will ahl be due on the first of next month recolect with interes from date I think he will pay it when due, send it By the mail when collected in as large bills as you can get.

We had a very fine meeting at somerset including the 2d Lords Day in this month there wair 12 adid By imersion they go to the water and imers them at any hour in the night. We have had an onuseuel warm sumer and fall for this country I wish that Jacob Wright could be here a while to show thes Sectiriences where they Stand and lead them into the light of the truth -

Jane wishes you to make inquiry about her mother and John Graham's wife and let us know how they are geting ; Brother John is at Philidelphia he left this place last tuesday two weeks a go. his artifishal lim is about to fail and he intends geting a new lim while he is at the City ; Brother Michael is driveing a head he caries on a foundry in this place and also atends to the praktice of medison - write soon and let us know about all new events and thansations Give my rispects to all enquiring friends. Tell Rachael that we have not forgoten her and the children and receive for yourself and family our best wishes and rispects -

Yours affectionately
Jacob Berkey (Was 54 yrs. old. Lived 24 more.

To J.B.Berkey

The second letter is from Dr.Michael. It is on blue paper, so it has not turned as yellow as the others. He is quite flowery:

Somerset Penna May 10th 1850

Dear Brother Jonas,

I recd yours of 28th ult.in due time - I suppose you had not yet recd mine.

I am glad that you feel so much interested for Henry, for I do think that he ought to have help. Nothing could give me more pleasure than to be able to afford him relief ; any personal sacrifice that would be required to give him the assistance requested would be a gratification to me - and had he no other friend to depend upon but myself I have not the least doubt but I would be able to find a way to give him relief, for I know that a great deal can be done with proper exertions; but I can not see any way yet that I could command any funds above my own engagements. - I have placed myself under pecuniary responsibilities to the full extent of the means at my control and it is impossible for me to advance one dollar without resorting to a loan. This I would freely do if I could effect it in time to suit his purposes - and if you can not gratify yourself with the whole pleasure of relieving the wants of a brother I must try. Jonas I do not speak of this work as a burthen, but it is one of actual pleasure. But I suppose that you could advance the whole amount much better than I could, even a small part. - I am fearful that some of my friends are under a mistake in regard to my circumstances - It is true that I have enough, with proper care and industry to make my way along in a manner somewhat respectable, but it requires all my energies.- It is true I earn a good deal of money by hard riding - yes hard labour for I have about fifty acres land(not yet paid for) which I am trying to get into cultivation. -I labour in the field during the day(very often) and ride at night, so long as I can stand it. Then I take a little medicine and rest, and repete the routine.

Letter from Michael Berkey,cont.

My investments have not been proffitable and I have been reproached with unwise investments, and this is one cause why I exert myself as I do - I wish at least to save the principle,and this I still think I can do provided I have no more heavy losses. - But in order to get a home here where I,and especially my wife so much desired it I was compelled to leave my propert in Berlin without a prospect to sell it. and purchase here partly on time. - And I am yet owing money which I borrowed several years ago to pay debts unfortunately contracted through an unfaithful and irresponsible partner in business. Yet if I am favoured by Divine Providence,which I believe I will be so long as I obey the heavenly precepts, I have no doubt I shall be able to get through.

But were I now to involve myself still further,where there is no positive necessity for it,merely to gratify a kind of ambition to appear liberal, I should hold myself culpable, and to some extent unfaithful to my own family. But should it become actually necessary; should you fail to furnish the means necessary to relieve Henry, then it would place me upon different ground. The case then would call upon my benevolence. The gift then would be charity and not vanity. It would be charity because I could not make the advance to any amount without great inconvenience, to say the least of it, if I could do it at all. -This inconvenience would still be a pleasure and not a burthen.

Jonas, I suppose you understand me.- Will you take the whole benefit of this charity and advance the funds, or shall I participate in it, and if so to what amount? As for Jacob it is out of the question for him to do anything in the matter.

You will understand,if I am asked to advance anything it will be understood that I must have time to hunt up a loan. Henry must have relief.

Please let me hear from you soon.
Very affectionately
Your Brother
M.Berkey (Michael)

(Note: Michael was 46 when he wrote this letter; lived only 12 more yr Their brother Henry died in Dec.1853. Must have lost his health & been having a hard time. L.Berkey)

This is the 3rd and last letter in the old pocketbook,from Uncle John the bachelor who,according to Jacob, had lost a "lim". He seems to have been a sort of inventor. He writes:

Berlin,Pa. March 7th 1852

Brother Jonas,

I am staying for the present at Brother Jacob's. I arrived here a week ago last night and during this time I visited brother Michael at Somerset. Our folks here are all well, but I have been afflicted myself with a severe cold ever since I arrived which has prevented my going about much. I went to church with Jacob and Jane this forenoon. There were several over from Somerset and we had a very good by Mr.Luce from that place. Jacob seems to get along pretty well here and I think Michael will get through his difficulties shortly,and I think his prospects pretty fair for the future. We have had disagreeably cold wether ever since I arrived here until today. There are deep snow drifts all about here and the ground is still very hard frozen.

Letter of John Berkey, cont.

I spent only three days at Washington and I soon found that I could not obtain a patent for raising the wind and so I gave up the enterprise. I will spend a week or two yet between this place and Somerset, and I shall probably not be home yet for three or four weeks as I design spending some time at Pittsburgh and also at Cincinnati.

Jacob and Michael are very anxious for Jacob Wright to come and preach for them though I think they have a preacher here quite equally to Jacob and he has the advantage of understang German and also french being a native of France. Jacob took me over to Somerset last Monday in his buggy and on Tuesday he returned and I came back with him. He is anxious to sell out his store and retire from business. If he should succeed in selling out he and Jane will visit the west this season, but he is afraid to spend much time in the west on account of health. He has fine health here and so has Jane. I asked Jacob what I should write for him and he replied that I might write whatever I please so now being left free to do as I please I close my letter, having headach and not feeling in a mood for writing a long letter -

I remain as ever
Your Brother,
Jno. Berkey

(He was 56 and lived 19 yrs. more)

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2. A License & a Recipe - A small paper in the old pocketbook is J.B.Berkey's retailing license in Jackson Co. for 1845, the year he came to Salem:

"State of Indiana
Jackson County, Sct (this state)
To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting Know ye that Jonas B. Berkey having filed in my office the Treasurer receipt for five Dollars the said Jonas B. Berkey is hereby authorized and Licensed to retail goods of foreign growth and manufacture in said county for one year from the date hereof.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand at Brownstown the 6th day of January 1845.

Rawley Scott Auditor
of said county"

And here is one of two recipes on a stiff, parchment-like piece of yellow paper. One is for "Cold Wine Beer" made with hops, "east", molasses & spices. This one is -

"Receipt for making ginger cakes

" 7 lb flower, 1 lb butter, 3 spoons full of ginger, the yellow of four eggs, 1 pint Butter milk, 2 ouz purl ash disolved in the milk 1 hr. beforehand, 1 tspoon full fine alum disolved in 1 pint cold water, ½ gln molases make up your doe roul out your dough ¼ of an inch thick Bake it 10 minits Rub the ginger in the flower eggs and Butter in the molasses the alum in the water.

LETTER from HENRY BRICKEY, Monroe, Wisconsin
(Found among papers of Fannie Thomas, Jan. 1954)

State of Wisconsin County of Green
March the 18th 1850.

Brother Jonas Dear Sir

It is a Long Time Since we Saw Each other or herd from Each other and we Should Keep up Corespondence with Each other by Letter. There has Many Changes Taken place in life Since we Saw Each other. We are here in a thickley Settled new Country and I think a pretty Good Country. Tho our Winters are pretty Long our County is helthey we have all Enjoid Good helth here Except Myself I am never Stout and helthy nor would not be in any Country.

Now Jonas when I come to Look back in Times past and Look at the pleasurs which we Enjoid Together in Society as Brothers and Sisters and as a family it Still Gladdens My hart. Tho it all most Brings Me to the conclusion that we have no Regard for Each other in as much as we have neglected keeping up Corespondence with each other for So Long a time But this opinion I yet Can not harber In as Much as we have Allways Lived in peace and Stood up with Each other in all Our Trubbles. Threw Life I feal that our harts are Truly Knit Together according To the Ties of nature and by the Love of God and the Love of Brothers and Sisters. I must acknowledge that I have neglected To write To such To My friends. Our Country is Good and Rich Land Land is Raising in Value Verry fast. We Came To this Country verry pore and owing To my poor helth it opperated pretty hard on my mind But we are Still Rich in faith and have the Privalage of singling our Voices with some of the Deciples of God here we have a Small Church here of the Mts Kind have Good preaching here our place of meeting is in 3 miles of us where we Meete Twist a month.

Now Jonas I must Give you some History of our afairs. we are pretty well Satesfied here John and Nancy Mathers and Jacob and Katherine Leonard are near us William is Still with us and all pretty well pleased with this Country. our sone Jacob I suppose has quit Gambling he wrote us Lately that he has maried a wife and is living in the State of Tenessee his wife is a member of the Christian Church. And [illegible] sea they Intend Coming to Wisconsin this Spring and Haveing a permanent Settlement here. I must Tell you Something of our Trubbles here we have had our share here of Trubbles Tho we thank God that he still spairs our Lives. When we Came to wisconsin we were poor not able To by Land Consequently as most all others we Took a Claime of 80 acres of Land and Commenced hard work to fence and plough In a Short time after the State athority Layed a warrant on the same with many other Lands for State College use our State assembly past a Law to Value these Lands and To Sell the same Mine was Rated at $2 per acre and gave me the prefference of Bying at the Sale at that price and giveing Ten years Time on the most of the Money That Gave us Great Encouragement To work we Increased our Industry and worked hard and fenced some 35 acres and broke the most of the same. But alass Last winter the Legislature Raised the price To Ten Dollars per acre that put a Death Blow to our prospect how I was again put to my Trumps for the Land is not worth half the money nor will not be soon Now Every thing was again Blasted To make us Comfortable in our old Days. But again a Spark was Kindled in my mind and it is this A young Man in the neighbourhood offered his farm for sale at Less than its Value on acount of wishing To Go To the gold mines the thaut of that and of my Kind Brothers Gave me new Life willing to Risk Getting help from some of my Kind Brothers in the Shape of a Lone Truly this is quite a Risk But I have Confidence in my friends in Time of grate neade I therefore made that purches I got 160 acres of first

Letter of Henry Berkey,cont.

Rate Land all fit to Plough for $335.To be paid the first of Sept. next without Interest There is 80 acres under a good new fence and forty acres broke and in good order Gave my note for the money and take possesion this spring. Now Jonas this farm is worth some six hundred dollars I hapened To Take him in the Nite Time. But now my risk. I fully Depend on my Brothers for help the money Can not be had here Except paying on common Interest which Cannot be aforded I Cannot make the money here in Time that is evident So you may see what Cinfidence I have in my friends we think we Can make perhaps half the money off the first Crop But that Can not be turned before next winter we yet have the old place that with the other gives between 60 and 70 acres of plough land this summer. Now Jonas if you could Lone me the money Just Let me Know Just as soon as this Comes to hand write without fail as my Dependance on my friends for some comfort in our old Days Depends on them If you Can Let us have the money I will have the deed made to you and take a bond for a deed from you or who Ever may let us have the money. If you can help us perhaps the money mite be placed in some of your banks and I Draw at Michigan Citty Bank Direct your Letter to Monroe Green County State of Wisconsin

I wish I had room Henry Berkey

(over)
I wrote To our Brothers in pensylvania on this Same Subject and requested Them To write to you and by So Doing the arrangment mite be Made Easily on all perhaps H.Berkey

(This letter was written on long foolscap paper and was folded and sealed with a wafer of red wax,without envelope. There was no stamp but it had"10" written in the stamp corner. The letter was addressed to J.B.Berkey,Salem Washington County,Indiana and the postmark was Monroe,Wis. Mar.21,1850)

ANOTHER LETTER FROM DR.MICHAEL BERKEY
(Found in papers of Fannie Thomas, with the letter from Henry)

This letter of Michael's was written more than two years after his first one. He does not mention Henry and we wonder if anybody helped him. This letter of late 1852 was sent a little over a year before Henry's death in late 1853.

Somerset,Penna.Nov.7th 1852

Dear Brother Jonas,

I had the pleasure to receive your kind favour of the 27th Sept. in good time but have delayed to answer out of pure neglect -not for want of interest in our Correspondence,but because my mind is so continually crouded with other things that it seems to be quite a task for me to write a letter to a friend. Indeed the loss of my sweet little Norman,one year ago, the frequent disappointments in business, the treachery of friends, resulting in the loss of all my property, the cares of a family, the anxieties consequent upon my professional duties,all in connection with my physical infirmities and the peculiar organization of my mental and moral constitution, renders me almost unfit for the enjoyment of a social life. Yet I have my comfortable moments,but still I have my uncomfortable hours and my days of toil.

I look forward for a better home -where we have"a building of God; a house not made with hands -eternal in the Heavens."

Letter from Michael Berkey, cont.

This world is to me a wilderness with here and there a green spot with the sunshine of love and the foretaste of future joys. But I am sure that this world is nought but a place to prepare us for everlasing life. Therefore we must prepare ; otherwise eternal death instead of life is sure.

Jonas, you have probably been blessed with a more fortunate moral organization than I - at least your talents for business arrangements have manifested themselves in your success, and therefore you know little of the pains of adversity. But God deals wisely and kindly with us - perhaps it is necessary for my future good that I am thus scurged. This, at least, is my consolation, that the Lord chastizes his children whom he loves. Therefore I try to make the best of all my misfortunes and consecrate them to my good.

I wish I could see you. Tell John to come and spend the winter with us. but William, in particular. I am afraid his protracted ill health has placed his life in jeopardy. Tell him to come, without delay, and spend a few months with me. I might probably be of service to him. My great ambition is to serve my friend.

Jonas, I think you had better press him to come. He will be at no expense except going and coming.

Write again soon. Do not neglect it.

Your Brother,
M. Berkey

P.S. I should like to live in Salem, but I cannot see at present how I can get away from here. M.B.

What is pork worth? It is scarce here - I think I had better get you to send me six or eight hundred weight, either of pork or bacon. Last year we had hams on from Saint Louis - I think it would cost me less to get it from your place than to purchase here. What say you?

M.B.

OWNERS OF THE JAMES G.BERKEY LOT,306 E.Walnut St.,Salem,Ind.
-from the abdtract.

Lot 6, Hacke 1st Add.

1.United States to Andrew Pitts, July 12,1811

2.Andrew Pitts and Margaret his wife to Chas.May,Sept.21,1837

3. Charles May and wife Helen to Wm.Kemp,Nov.4,1839

4. Wm.Kemp and Cyntha Ann his wife to Epaphras H.Phelps,March 9,1842

5. Epaphras H.Phelps and Martha his wife of Clark Co. to Dawson Lyon, March 19,1844

6. Dawson Lyon and Martha his wife to Jacob Wright,May 19,1854

7. Jacob Wright to Abigail Neal,Oct.24,1864

8. Heirs of Abigail Neal to James B.Neal,Sept.26,1891

9. James B.Neal and Alice T.his wife to James B.Berkey,Apr.22,1907

10. Flora N.Berkey,Lillie Morris and husband,Saml.P.,to James G.Berkey May 8,1917. Deed recorded Sept.12,1918.

(Frank Neal wondered who owned the house when he lived there as a little boy. The Abigail Neal who bought it in 1864 was his great grandmother,widow of James H.Neal. The preacher,Jacob Wright,was the first pastor of Salem Christian Church, had owned it but had moved to Greensburg. His wife,who was Rachal Denny,died of tuberculosis. He brought her back to Old Blue River for burial and sold the house before returning, according to a letter with the abstract from a son,Jonas Berkey Wright of Madison,Ind. Probably Mrs.Neal bought it to help out the preacher. It was Civil War times and money was scarce. Mr.Wright said he didn't know who built the 2-story part of the house, but his father added the section running north.

You see that James B.Neal("Burr"),who was Frank's grandfather,bought the house from the other heirs. So it was Neal property from 1864 to 1907. Dr.George Neal who married"Aunt Lib"Berkey lived there, as well as Minnie and Guy. It was rented to others at times.

Except for the ten years when the preacher owned it, the lot has belonged to the Berkey family or their connections from 1844 until now. Dawson Lyon was Amanda Berkey's uncle ; the Neals were intermarried with the Berkeys and James B.Berkey was a cousin.

BIBLE RECORD - DR.MICHAEL BERKEY

From Xerox copy provided by a great-grand-daughter, Miss Katharine Bruce Jones,2034 Green Street, San Francisco, Calif. 1969

Dr.Michael Berkey was a son of Christian and Fanny Breniser Berkey who came from Somerset Co.,Pa.to Indiana in 1808, first to Clark Co.,then to Washington Co. and then to Jackson Co. Michael was a brother of Jonas B.Berkey who began Berkey Bros. store in Salem,Wash.Co.,Ind. which was in business nearly a century.

Bible published by B.B.Mussey,Boston,
1842

FAMILY RECORD 1764875

BIRTHS

Michael Berkey was born the 7th February 1804

Ellen Bruce was born 30th April 1819

Christian Berkey - father of Michael born

Fanny Breniser Mother of Michael born

Christian Berkey Grandfather of Michael was born
in Alsace Germany
Catharina Saylor Grand Mother of Michael was born
in Hweiberg (or Freiberg-not clear) Germany

Ellen Berkey -Daughter of Michael and Ellen was born February 1st 1843
at Berlin,Penn.
Norman Bruce Berkey Son of Michael & Ellen was born May 1st 1844

Fanny Berkey Daughter of Michael & Ellen born July 19th 1846

Clarinda Berkey Daughter of Michael & Ellen born 14th April 1848

Barbara Berkey Daughter of MicHael & Ellen Born 8th November 1850
Somerset Pa
Emma Berkey Daughter of Michael & Ellen Born 24th November 1852
Somerset Pa

William Berkey Son of Michael & Ellen was born 22nd May 1855

Michael Berkey Bible Record

BIRTHS, continued

Marcellus Holbrook -born at Turkeyfoot Penna March 1838

Anna - daughter of Marcellus and Ellen Holbrook -born Mch 30th 1867 at Magnolia Iowa

Bruce - son of Marcellus & Ellen Holbrook - born at Magnolia Iowa on 28th day of November 1868

Richard Berkey -son of Marcellus and Ellen Holbrook was born 26 September 1872 at Missouri Valley Iowa

Nelly - Daughter of Marcellus & Ellen Holbrook was born October 28th 1874 at Missouri Valley Iowa

Kate -daughter of Marcellus and Ellen Holbrook was born December 6th 1878 at Missouri Valley Iowa

Burke Holbrook son of Marcellus and Ellen Holbrook was born at Missouri Valley Iowa November 8th 1881

MARRIAGES

Michael Berkey and Eliza G.Burge were married June 15th 1834

Michael Berkey and Ellen Bruce were married February 10th 1842

Marcellus Holbrook and Ellen Berkey were married June 11th 1866 at Mt.Pleasant Iowa by Dr.Henry R.Kern

Frank P.Cook and Emma Berkey were married 8th November 1870 at Magnolia Iowa by Rev.H.W.Hayward

M.W.Coolbaugh and Anna Holbrook were married at Missouri Valley Iowa May 15th 1890 by Rev.A.B.Cornell

R.B.Holbrook and Jennie Mabel Jackson Married 23rd Octo.1901 by Rev.Henry Little at Springfield,Missouri

Charles Herbert Cole and Eleanor Holbrook married Apl 27th 1905 by Elder D.W.Moore at Springfield,Mo.

George W.Jones and Katharine Bruce Holbrook Married Jany 10 1907 by Elder F.L.Moffett at Springfield,Mo.

Michael Berkey Bible Record , cont.

DEATHS

Eliza G.Berkey Departed this life for a happy immortality Decr.5th 1834

Fanny Berkey daughter of Michael & Ellen died 24th July 1847

Norman Bruce Berkey Son of Michael & Ellen Died the 22nd October 1851

Barbara Berkey Daughter of Michael & Ellen Died 20th November 1855

Clarinda Berkey Daughter of Michael & Ellen Died 30th November 1855

William Berkey Son of Michael & Ellen died the 1st hour of the 2nd day of January 1861

Michael Berkey Departed this life for a glorious immortality June 22nd 1862.

Bruce - son of Marcellus and Ellen Holbrook died August 28th 1879 at Missouri Valley Iowa

Ellen Bruce Berkey died

Marcellus Holbrook died

George Washington Jones died December 22,1945

Clipping attached, from Los Angeles Times, Feb.29,1968:

"JONES - Katharine H. beloved mother of Mrs.Nancy J. Ellis and Katharine Bruce Jones, grandmother of Mrs. Nancy Schoettler, Jennifer,George and Stephen Ellis, also survived by 3 great-grandchildren.

Services 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the Little Church of the Flowers,Forest Lawn,Glendale. Forest Lawn Mortuary. (Died Feb.28,1968)

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